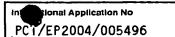
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 F24F12/00 F24F7/08 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 F24F F28F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1-9 US 5 832 992 A (VAN ANDEL ELEONOOR) Α 10 November 1998 (1998-11-10) cited in the application abstract; figure 1 AT 388 228 B (AL KO KOBER GES M B H) 1-9 Α 26 May 1989 (1989-05-26) abstract DE 100 10 817 A (MIG MITTELSTANDS 1-9 Α ENTWICKLUNGSG) 18 October 2001 (2001-10-18) abstract US 2003/042012 A1 (PEARSON FREDERICK J) 1-9 Α 6 March 2003 (2003-03-06) abstract -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international tiling date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannol be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 17/08/2004 5 August 2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Valenza, D Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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